DL

ascending from under the Stage. Duke of Venice – Thomas; Hernando – Powell; Gusman Sr – Ben Johnson; Gusman Jr – Evans; Pedro – Penkethman; Artan – Mills; Alonza – Horden [error for Harland (?)]; Bonde – Cibber; Delay – Smeaton; Peter – Smith; Senator – Rogers; Marcella – Mrs Temple; Serena – Mrs Andrews; Lucy – Mrs Powel. In v: Endimion, The Man in a Moon. A Masque.

COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the first performance is not certain, but the Preface refers to the Long Vacation and a thin house, suggesting a late summer production. As the play was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 16–18 Nov. 1697, a first performance in October 1697 is probably the latest date for this play, and September seems more likely.

Among the songs are several for whom the composer and singer are named: "Happy we who free from love," and "How calm Eliza are these groves," the music set by Morgan and both sung by Mrs Lindsey. "She comes my goddess comes," set by Morgan and sung by Mrs Cibber. "Sleep shepherd sleep," the music set by Morgan and sung by Mrs Cross. All four are in *A Collection of New* Songs, 1697.

Preface, Edition of 1698: To serve the wants of a thin Playhouse, and Long Vacation . . . This hasty Brat . . . had the Honor of keeping the Stage for five Days Reign.

Animadversions on Mr Congreve's late Answer to Mr Collier (1698), pp. 34-35: The mighty Man of Wit [Congreve] . . . at the Representation of this Play . . . was seen very gravely with his Hat over his Eyes among his chief Actors, and Actresses, together with the two She Things, call'd Poetesses, which Write for his House, as 'tis nobly call'd; thus seated in State among those and some other of his Ingenious critical Friends, they fell all together upon a full cry of Damnation, but when they found the malicious Hiss would not take, this very generous, obliging Mr Congreve was heard to say, We'll find out a New way for this Spark, take my word there is a way of clapping of a Play down.

THE UNNATURAL MOTHER. Author not known. Edition of 1698: Prologue, Spoken by Mr Verbruggen. Epilogue, Spoken by Mr Bowen. No actors' names. COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the first performance is not known. As the play was advertised in the Post Boy, 20-23 Nov. 1697, it was probably first acted not later than October 1697; and, in view of its apparently unsuccessful appearance, may have been a late summer or early fall production. When this play was entered in the Term Catalogues, it had the title, Love's Reward; or, The Unnatural Mother.

- Friday 3 COMMENT. John Dryden to his sons, 3 Sept. 1697: After my return to Town, I intend to alter a play of Sir Robert Howards, written long since, & lately put by him into my hands: tis calld The Conquest of China by the Tartars. It will cost me six weeks study, with the probable benefit of an hunderd pounds. In the meane time I am writeing a Song for St Cecilia's feast ,who you know is the Patroness of Musique. This is troublesome, & no way beneficiall: but I coud not deny the Stewards of the feast, who came in a body to me, to desire that kindness (Letters of John Dryden, p. 93).
- Wednesday 15 COMMENT. James Brydges, Diary: I went to Tom's Coffee house, where I met [DL or LIF] Mr Marshall, he told me of Capt. Hill being kill'd by Ld Mohun, from hence I went to Wills, where I met Dr Davenant, I staid here almost half an hour, & coming home by y^e way stopt & just lookt in at y^e Playhouse being about seven a clock (Huntington MS St 26).
- Monday 20 Richmond CONCERT. COMMENT. Post Man, No. 372, 16-18 Sept. 1692: On Monday next the 20th, at the new Wells in Richmond, will be performed an Entertainment of Musick, made for the Birth day of his Highness the Duke of Glocester: The Trumpet part

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